

March 26, 2009

Tom Contreras, Forest Supervisor
Mendocino National Forest
825 N. Humboldt
Willows, CA 95988

RE: GCA – 08

Dear Mr. Contreras:

Please accept this letter from the BlueRibbon Coalition, a national trail group, as indication of **support** for your 2008/09 Water Development Grant, Ground Operations Grant, Ericson 4x4 Trail Decommission Grant, Yolla Bolly Middle Eel Decommission Grant, and Soda Creek Road Decommission Grant.

Since the Mendocino National Forest is one of California's premier OHV Forests with facilities and route networks that are an important part of the state-wide destination OHV area matrix, BRC believes the size and scope of the grant package reflects the holistic nature of the agency's commitment to managed motorized recreation.

BRC believes the water development grant is critically important to fund since it will provide drinkable water, once again, to the Stonyford OHV Campground Complex (5 campgrounds) which on busy weekends becomes the "Largest City in Colusa County." The RV dump station is also closed at this time due to lack of potable water.

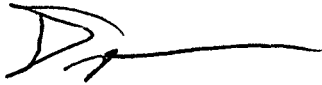
BRC believes the ground operations grant is important considering that more Forests are completing their travel management plans which often includes seasonal winter closures to OHV use. Since the Mendocino NF uses rainfall-based closures, it has become a prime, if not exclusive, source of wheeled OHV recreation during the winter months for riders in Central and Northern California. In that role, the unit requires an increased maintenance commitment by the agency, users, and OHMVR grants program.

BRC believes the aforementioned restoration projects comply with both the spirit and intent of SB742's restoration grant language. BRC supports restoration grants that are part of a managed OHV program where legal motorized opportunities are provided for and enhanced in conjunction with restoration of routes that have been closed using the appropriate NEPA process or by legislation.

BRC commends the Forest for its rather impressive list of partners and stakeholders. BRC thanks the agency for attending AMA Dist. 36's annual club meeting where topics related to permitted events are discussed, issues resolved, and solutions found. BRC also appreciates the commitment by your office to more fully develop the Forest's current volunteer program.

BRC thanks your office for allowing us to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Don Amador', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Don Amador
Western Representative
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Oakley, CA 94561
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